Directions: *Read and annotate the following…*

**Popular baby names inspired by literary characters…**

**Atticus**
The names of author Harper Lee and all her characters in *To Kill A Mockingbird* -- Atticus (an ancient Roman name meaning "from Athens"), Scout, even Radley -- have been taken up by the baby-naming public. It doesn't hurt that Atticus Finch was judged the number one movie hero of all time by the American Film Institute.

**Darcy**
Darcy, as in Mr., may be the ultimate Jane Austen hero name, but these days it's enjoying a new turn in the sun as a name for girls, following in Emma's footsteps as an Austen-inspired favorite.

**Eloise**
The mischievous little girl who lives at The Plaza Hotel has been enjoying more widespread visibility since the death of author Kay Thompson, who had kept the books out of print. The name Eloise, along with many of its "El" sisters, from Ella to Eleanor, is a newly fashionable baby name that combines the heroine's worldliness and insouciance.

**Esmé**
Esmé enjoys not one but two literary fan clubs, those that remember it from the J.D. Salinger story "For Esmé: With Love and Squalor" and a much larger, more modern group of *Twilight* fans.

**Gatsby**
*The Great Gatsby* has a new generation of fans who are taking up the antihero's last name Gatsby as a first, and attention to the name will only intensify once the new film version, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire, Carey Mulligan, and Isla Fisher, opens in December. The book's Jay Gatsby gussied up his name from Gatz, which, depending on the source, means "left-handed," "cat," "God," and "person from Gat."

**Holden**
The name of the alienated young hero of *Catcher in the Rye*, a favorite of teenage readers, is being taken up by this generation of baby namers. Not coincidentally, it's right in step with a trend for two-syllable boys' names that end in n and have a surname feel. It's number 316 on the popularity list.

**Kairi**
Kairi, which means "sea" in Japanese, is the name of the main female character, voiced by Hayden Panettiere, in the popular animated fantasy series *Kingdom Hearts.* Kairi is one of the seven Princesses of the Heart and a new sweetheart of baby namers.

**Katniss**
Katniss Everdeen is the heroine of the popular *Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins; the name Katniss comes from the (very real) edible aquatic plant of the genus Sagittaria. Katniss's father tells her that if she "finds herself," she'll never go hungry -- a sentiment that modern parents may want to impart to their namesake babies.

**Rhett**
Where Scarlett goes, can Rhett be far behind? Scarlett Johansson breathed new life into the literary moniker of Scarlett O'Hara, and now we've seen a dramatic rise in interest in the name of her *Gone With The Wind* companion Rhett, a variation of the (also newly popular) Welsh name Rhys.

**Zuzu**
Today's parents grew up watching *It's A Wonderful Life* on television every Christmas, and the nickname of the little girl who tells dad Jimmy Stewart that every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings, is finding new favor, along with other double names such as Coco and Lulu

**Elizabeth**

**USAGE:** [English](http://www.behindthename.com/names/usage/english), [Biblical](http://www.behindthename.com/names/usage/biblical)

**PRONOUNCED:** i-LIZ-ə-bəth **(English)**   [[key]](http://www.behindthename.com/pronunciation.php)

**Meaning & History**

From [*Ελισαβετ*](http://www.behindthename.com/support/transcribe.php?type=GR&target=Elisabet) *(Elisabet)*, the Greek form of the Hebrew name [*אֱלִישֶׁבַע*](http://www.behindthename.com/support/transcribe.php?type=HB&target=%27E%5E%5Eliys%5Ee%5Eba%5E%22) *('Elisheva')* meaning "my God is an oath" or perhaps "my God is abundance". The Hebrew form appears in the [Old Testament](http://www.behindthename.com/glossary/view/old_testament) where Elisheba is the wife of [Aaron](http://www.behindthename.com/name/aaron), while the Greek form appears in the [New Testament](http://www.behindthename.com/glossary/view/new_testament) where Elizabeth is the mother of [John](http://www.behindthename.com/name/john) the Baptist.

Among Christians, this name was originally more common in Eastern Europe. It was borne in the 12th century by [Saint](http://www.behindthename.com/glossary/view/saint) Elizabeth of Hungary, a daughter of King Andrew II who used her wealth to help the poor. In medieval England it was occasionally used in honour of the saint, though the form [*Isabel*](http://www.behindthename.com/name/isabel) (from Occitan and Spanish) was more common. It has been very popular in England since the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century. Famous modern bearers include the British queen Elizabeth II (1926-) and actress Elizabeth Taylor (1932-2011).

Why would Austen name her main character and protagonist Elizabeth?

* (before film):
* (after film):

***Before you name your protagonist—think about their name and do some research!***